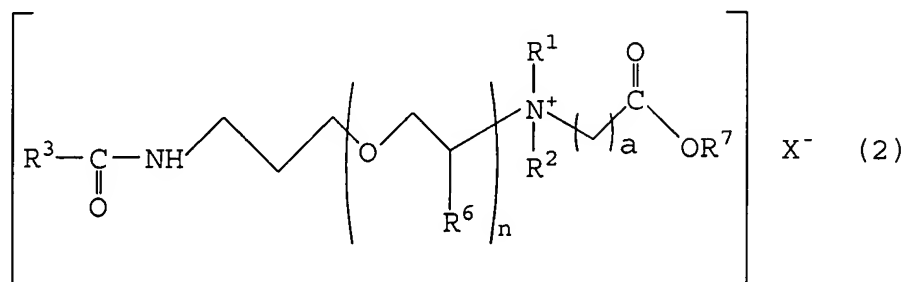


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)

2. (Currently Amended) A deodorant composition ~~of Claim 1,~~
~~wherein the formula (1) is the following formula comprising a~~
deodorant betaine ester represented by formula (2):



~~[[[]] wherein, R¹, R² and R³, n and X⁻ have the same meanings as~~
~~defined above,~~ R¹, R² and R³ each independently represents a
hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁₋₃₆ alkyl or alkenyl group,
n stands for 0 to 10, X⁻ represents an anion, R⁶ represents a
 hydrogen atom or a methyl group, a stands for 1 or 2, R⁷ represents
 a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon or aromatic
 hydrocarbon group having 1 to 11 carbon atoms, a C₁₂₋₃₆ alkadienyl,
 alkatrienyl, aryl or arylalkyl group, or a monocyclic, dicyclic or
 tricyclic terpene hydrocarbon group, some of the hydrogen atoms on
 said hydrocarbon group of R⁷ may be substituted by a halogen atom
 or a hydroxyl group, or the methylene group in said hydrocarbon
 group of R⁷ may be substituted by a carbonyl group, an amide bond,
 an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, the methyl groups may be

substituted or unsubstituted by a formyl group or -CONH_2 , the carbon-carbon double bond may be substituted by an epoxy group, or R^7 may be either a single substance or a mixture $[[\]]$.

3. (Currently Amended) A deodorant composition comprising the following components (a) and (b):

(a) a the deodorant as claimed in Claim 1 composition of Claim 2, and

(b) a functional perfume.

4. (Currently Amended) A hair cosmetic composition comprising a the deodorant composition as claimed in of Claim 1 or 2.

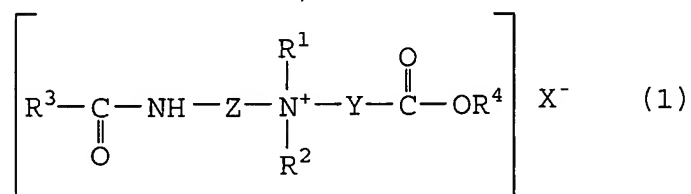
5. (Currently Amended) A hair The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 4, containing therein the deodorant betaine ester represented by the formula (2), in an amount of 0.01 to 70 wt.%.

6. (Currently Amended) A hair cosmetic composition, comprising a the deodorant composition of Claim 3, wherein said deodorant betaine ester of formula (2) is present in an amount of 0.01 to 50 wt.%.

7. (Currently Amended) A body cosmetic composition, comprising a the deodorant composition of Claim ~~1 or~~ 2.

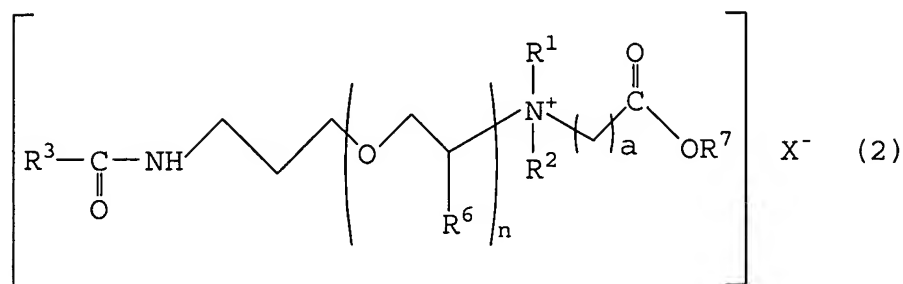
8. (Currently Amended) ~~A body~~ The body cosmetic composition of ~~claim 5~~ Claim 7, comprising a the deodorant composition in an amount of 0.01 to 70 wt.%.

9. (NEW) A method for the deodorization of a scalp odor, a body odor or a foot odor, which comprises applying to a subject in need thereof a composition comprising a deodorant betaine ester represented by the following formula (1):



wherein, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C_{1-36} alkyl or alkenyl group, Y represents a linear or branched C_{1-4} alkylene group, Z represents a group represented by $-\text{R}^5(\text{OA})_n-$ in which, R^5 represents a linear or branched C_{1-36} alkylene group, A represents a linear or branched C_{2-4} alkylene group and n stands for 0 to 10, R^4 represents a residue left after removal of an OH from an alcohol compound having, in the molecule thereof, at least one hydroxyl group, and X^- represents an anion.

10. (NEW) The method of Claim 9, wherein the formula (1) deodorant betaine ester is encompassed by formula (2):



wherein, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 , n and X^- have the same meanings as defined above, R^6 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, a stands for 1 or 2, R^7 represents a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon or aromatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 11 carbon atoms, a C_{12-36} alkadienyl, alkatrienyl, aryl or arylalkyl group, or a monocyclic, dicyclic or tricyclic terpene hydrocarbon group, some of the hydrogen atoms on said hydrocarbon group of R^7 may be substituted by a halogen atom or a hydroxyl group, or the methylene group in said hydrocarbon group of R^7 may be substituted by a carbonyl group, an amide bond, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, the methyl groups may be substituted or unsubstituted by a formyl group or $-\text{CONH}_2$, the carbon-carbon double bond may be substituted by an epoxy group, or R^7 may be either a single substance or a mixture.

11. (NEW) The method of claim 9, wherein the deodorant composition comprises the following components (a) and (b):

(a) the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1), and

(b) a functional perfume.

12. (NEW) The method of Claim 9, 10 or 11, wherein the deodorant composition contains the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1) or the deodorant betaine ester of formula (2) therein, in an amount of 0.01 to 70 wt.%.

13. (NEW) The method of Claim 9, 10 or 11, wherein the deodorant composition contains the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1) or the deodorant betaine ester of formula (2) therein, in an amount of 0.01 to 50 wt.%.

14. (NEW) The method of Claim 9, 10, or 11, which comprises applying to the hair of said subject in need thereof: (i) said deodorant composition containing the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1), (ii) said deodorant composition containing the deodorant betaine ester of formula (2), or (iii) said deodorant composition comprising the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1) and a functional perfume.

15. (NEW) The method of Claim 14, wherein the deodorant composition contains the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1) or the deodorant betaine ester of formula (2) therein, in an amount of 0.01 to 70 wt.%.

16. (NEW) The method of claim 9, 10, or 11, which comprises applying to the body of said subject in need thereof: (i) said deodorant composition containing the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1), (ii) said deodorant composition containing the deodorant betaine ester of formula (2), or (iii) said deodorant composition comprising the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1) and a functional perfume.

17. (NEW) The method of Claim 16, wherein the deodorant composition contains the deodorant betaine ester of formula (1) or the deodorant betaine ester of formula (2) therein, in an amount of 0.01 to 70 wt.%.